Optical Fibres Unit in M.P.

250. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a unit for the manufacture of optical fibres has been sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the progress made so far in its implementation and by when it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation (M/s MPSEDC) has been issued an industrial licence to manufacture optical fibre, fibre optic cables & fibre optic communication equipment with the following annual capacities:—

(i) Fibre optic cables 2000 Route Kms
(ii) Optical fibres 20000 Kms.
(iii) Fibre optic communication equipment 1200 Nos.

The unit is located in district Raisen (M P.)

(c) All Necessary Government approvals have been conveyed to M/s. MPSEDC to implement the project & the project is now being implemented. Production of optical fibre equipment is scheduled to commence during first quarter of 1989 and production of optical fibres is scheduled to commence from September '89.

Sickle Cell Anaemia Diseases

*251. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than one lakh Indians are suffering from Sickle Cell Anaemia;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more than two million Indians are carriers of defective gene that causes chronic blood disorder; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps are being taken to prevent this disease in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An estimate made by the AIIMS reveals that about 1.6 lakh persons suffer from Sickle Cell disease and about 40 lakh persons are carrier of the disease. Some limited research studies have been conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research through its Regional Medical Research Centre, Jabalpur, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi and All India Institute of Medical Sciences to find out the prevalence and causes of Sickle Cell Anaemia disease in the country especially among the tribal communities more prone to this disease. Preventive, promotive and curative health services are being provided to the people in rural areas including tribals through the net work of rural health services established in the country.